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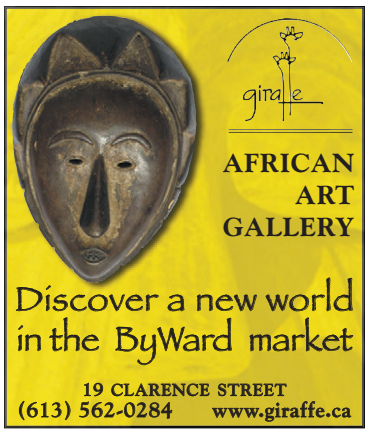
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Police seize gun, money, drugs in apartment search

ARRESTS Gatineau police arrested three men and seized money, a firearm and a small quantity of drugs after executing a search warrant at an apartment Monday.

After an investigation, police executed a search warrant at apartment 401 of 110 Dollard-des-Ormeaux Rd. at around 4 p.m., Gatineau police Const. Isabelle Poirier said. They arrested three men, all 22 years old.

They also seized a .40-calibre firearm with bullets, $10,000 in cash, a small quantity of marijuana and equipment for the purposes of drug trafficking.

While two of the suspects were expected to appear in court yesterday, the third man was released with conditions.

The suspects face charges of assault, possession of firearms, possession of drugs and drug trafficking.

METRO OTTAWA

Local pg 3

BeaverTails joining the party in D.C.

Canada pg 4

CAW slams contract for army trucks

Metro Drive pg 9

Mood neutral at Detroit's auto show

ShareYourViews
ottawaletters@metronews.ca

Politics **Charity controversy**

YURI GRIPAS / REUTERS

Hillary Clinton, right, appears with daughter Chelsea during her confirmation hearing yesterday in Washington to become the next U.S. secretary of state. Concerns were raised about potential conflict of interest regarding the Clinton Foundation. **See story, pg. 5**

It's about time: Union

Reps taking scheduling concerns before city council

TIM WIECLAWSKI
tim.wieclawski@metronews.ca

The union representing 2,300 striking OC Transpo employees is attempting to reach out to city councillors to clear up what they see as a misconception regarding driver scheduling.

Union scheduling representatives Craig Watson and Farhad Abesteh are hoping to address city council today in an effort to remove scheduling as an obstacle for reaching a settlement.

However, the city's procedural bylaw dictates that oral submissions must be made to committees and not at city council meetings.

Regardless, Watson said they intend to attend the meeting. He said it is important that people understand drivers are not controlling the bus schedule.

> **"From the minute we go to work to the minute we finish, they want complete control over us, is the way it comes out."**
> Craig Watson

Management schedules all the routes, then drivers pick the shifts available on that schedule by seniority, which is the standard in the industry.

"In any field that has to do with transportation — school bus drivers, pilots, everybody — selects shifts by seniority, but the work is always put together by management," Watson said.

Under the current system, no driver can be forced to work longer outside a 12-hour window. Watson said there are some exceptions, made in 1999 in exchange for an incentive.

The new offer would take that away and could result in drivers working a 16-hour spread, but only be paid for their time behind the wheel.

The main issue for drivers, though, is more about recovery time than assigning shifts.

Recovery time is the time at the end of a route left for a driver to get back on schedule, or go to the washroom or just stand up.

Watson said the union was asking for 10 per cent recovery time, which would mean a six-minute recovery time for an hour-long run.

The city, he said, was only offering five per cent.

"To save as much money as possible, they don't want you to ever get out of the seat," said Watson. "From the minute we go to work to the minute we finish, they want complete control over us, is the way it comes out."

The extra time would keep the system running on schedule, Watson said.

"Drivers get a lot of stress from passengers when we're late. This was a way of making sure service is on time," he said. "We don't want people yelling at us."

City owed free transit after strike: Councillor

TIM WIECLAWSKI
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Sooner or later, buses are going to be running again in Ottawa, and one city councillor is suggesting some measure of free transit to get people back on board.

"The city has an obligation to all of its citizens to rectify the situation as quickly and painlessly as possible," said Capital ward Coun. Clive Doucet.

"Part of that solution is ensuring any unintended savings are returned to riders in the form of no-charge transit."

As residents turn to other modes of transportation during the transit strike, it will inevitably lead to a significant decline in ridership once buses are back on the roads.

> **"The city has an obligation ... to rectify the situation as quickly and painlessly as possible."**
> Coun. Clive Doucet

The strike is costing the city commercial and productivity losses of $8 million every day, Doucet said, all because of a scheduling dispute with drivers that is expected to save about $3.4 million annually.

Doucet said the city needs to start planning how to get people back on transit as quickly as possible once the strike is finished.

That means making a commitment to return all money saved from the strike by providing the city with no-charge transit, he added.

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Student group shovels message to uOttawa
The Student Federation of the University of Ottawa is presenting a snow shovel with the uOttawa logo as a symbolic gift to the university today to remind administration that it is their responsibility to make the campus more accessible, regardless of weather. METRO OTTAWA

Local

Pet owners urged to keep pups inside

With a deep freeze expected to hit Ottawa over the next few days, the Ottawa Humane Society is reminding pet owners that cold temperatures can be dangerous for animals. While the OHS strongly recommends bringing dogs inside during periods of extreme cold, owners of outside dogs need to be especially vigilant about providing appropriate care — including a weatherproof doghouse — in cold weather. METRO OTTAWA

ObamaTails on menu

BeaverTails takes pastry to 'Tailgate party' in Washington

TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

Next week, the capital's most famous pastry will be the envy of political junkies all over Ottawa as it travels to Washington, D.C. — by invitation — to celebrate the U.S. presidential inauguration.

Grant Hooker, who founded and co-owns BeaverTails Canada Inc. with his wife, Pam, will be taking the BeaverTails pastry to the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C., to serve them at a "Tailgate party."

Grant Hooker, whose grandmother created BeaverTails, calls this "a command performance" for the pastries.

"This is a very special occasion for the BeaverTail."

Hooker, who brought BeaverTails to Ottawa in 1980, got a call from the Canadian Embassy last month.

"They asked if we would bring the BeaverTails down there, and how much it would cost," said Hooker. "I said 'yes,' and 'free.'"

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Megan Blake of Almonte and Laura Buck of Ottawa, both 22, sample an ObamaTail on the Rideau Canal Skateway yesterday. The BeaverTails creation will be served at a U.S. inauguration party.

United States
Presidential
Inauguration

The Hookers will be serving garlic butter and cheese BeaverTails as well as ObamaTails — cinnamon and sugar BeaverTails topped with Nutella "O's" and maple eyes — to 1,000 guests at the party.

And what would president-elect Barack Obama think of it?

"I think he'd love it," said Hooker, who hopes to see Obama sample a BeaverTail in a visit to Ottawa.

BeaverTails did a test run of its ObamaTails setup, giving out free pastries on the Rideau Canal Skateway at Fifth Avenue yesterday.

"I think it's kind of neat that we can be a part of the party down there," said Ottawa resident Terry Cole.

"It's good for Canada," said Ottawa resident Mark McHale, 23. "Maybe this will add some sweetness to Canadian-American relations."

Group calls for $2.5B for affordable housing units

HOUSING A local homelessness advocacy group is calling on the federal government to invest $2.5 billion over two years in affordable housing as part of an economic stimulus plan.

The money would mean "just over $61 million for Ottawa, or approximately 470 to 555 new affordable housing units," Perry Rowe, chairman of the Alliance to End Homelessness in Ottawa said in a release.

Last year, only 73 new affordable units were built in Ottawa, he said.

"Ottawa needs new affordable housing stock that is either purpose-built or created by purchase and conversion, adaptive reuse or renovation of property," said Rowe. "We also need new supportive housing units and we need to repair existing social housing."

Out in the cold

- There were 8,915 people who were homeless in Ottawa last year, according to the Alliance to End Homelessness.

The alliance is also asking Mayor Larry O'Brien to take the issue to the Big City Mayors' Caucus in Ottawa this week.

Nationwide, the investment would create 30,000 to 50,000 units of affordable housing.

The investment would help vulnerable Canadians weather the recession, Rowe added, and create work for the construction industry.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Expect blue skies, no snow and one heck of a cold snap

FORECAST It's about to get very cold.

Environment Canada meteorologist Geoff Coulson said the temperature in Ottawa is expected to drop to below -30 C by Friday.

With the cold air moving in last night, Coulson said there is potential for a wind chill today that could push the mercury as low as -35 C.

"January tends to be the coldest month for most locations in the province," said Coulson. "So it's not unheard of for us to see these values at this time of year. The days are still relatively short. We don't have long sun times. The sun is still low in the sky so we're not getting much impact to bump up these temperatures."

The city's medical officer of health has issued a frostbite warning until Friday.

The cold temperatures will be accompanied by sunny skies with no more snow expected until at least the end of the weekend.

The weather is forecast to improve to -10 C by Saturday, with a return to around normal weather by the beginning of next week.

METRO OTTAWA

News in brief

BRIDGE City council decides today whether to ask the National Capital Commission to include Lower Duck Island as a potential bridge site. The transportation committee voted Monday to include a second option, after a study urged a Kettle Island site. It also eliminated west-end river locations from the running.

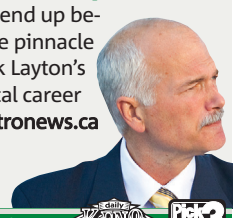
FESTIVAL A report on last August's Rideau Canal Festival shows 99 per cent of 114,000 attendees were satisfied with the four-day event, ensuring its return later this year. The festival, which celebrates Ontario's only UNESCO World Heritage site, also pulled off a zero carbon-footprint event.

METRO OTTAWA

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Planned Gitmo shutdown raises questions about Omar Khadr's future at **metronews.ca/canada**

Political Stripes 2008 could end up being the pinnacle of Jack Layton's political career **at metronews.ca**



Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 9 9 3; **Ontario Pick 4** : 9 4 0 6 **Encore:** 7857326 **Daily Keno:** 1, 2, 7, 10, 14, 15, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 35, 38, 41, 47, 49, 53, 58 and 68. These results are not official.

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Stork Craft cribs recalled

The company that makes the Stork Craft line of baby cribs is voluntarily recalling more than a million of them because of a potential suffocation hazard, authorities said yesterday. The cribs were made by B.C.-based Stork Craft Manufacturing Inc. and were sold at major retailers starting in May 2000. REUTERS

Canada

Court hears abortion appeal

The outcome of Henry Morgentaler's, left, latest fight to force the New Brunswick government to pay for the costs of abortions at his Fredericton clinic is now in the hands of the province's Court of Appeal. A hearing concluded yesterday afternoon with the three judges reserving decision on the controversial case.

CBC NEWS ONLINE

Jewish Congress says protests showed hatred

CONFLICT Today, the Canadian Jewish Congress will release video footage it says will "expose incidents of incitement to hatred and violence" by demonstrators at several recent pro-Palestinian rallies held in cities across the country.

"We are going to be highlighting some of the hateful and vile comments demonizing Jews and Israelis at these demonstrations, including calls for the murder of Jewish children and incitements of genocide," said Bernie Farber, executive director of the CJC. "There are expectations that even when we demonstrate ... we do so with respect and civility."

Response

- The Canadian Arab Federation was quick to dismiss such allegations last night as "fear mongering."

CUPE leader softens boycott stance

ONTARIO Outspoken Ontario labour leader Sid Ryan has softened his stance on banning Israeli academics who won't condemn Israel's Gaza attacks amid denunciation from critics, including his own union's national president.

On Jan. 2, Ryan, head of the provincial office of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, said in a news release "we are ready to say Israeli academics should not be on our campuses unless they explicitly condemn the (Islamic) university bombing and the assault on Gaza in general." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Military trucks to be built in U.S.

Contract awarded to company that's laid off 500 Canadian workers

The Canadian Auto Workers yesterday criticized Ottawa for farming out jobs to the U.S. for a company that is busy laying off the workforce at its Chatham, Ont., plant.

"Somebody has to explain to us why Canadian workers can't build military trucks for the Canadian military," said senior CAW executive Ken Chernecki, referring to a defence ministry contract to Illinois-based Navistar International Corp. to build 1,300 medium-duty trucks for the Canadian Armed Forces.

CAW officials plan to ask Navistar executives — already slated to meet with them today over heavy layoffs at their truck plant in Chatham — to switch the order from Garland, Texas, to their Canadian operation.

"At the plant this morning, our guys were just dumbfounded; they're mad as hell."
Ken Chernecki, CAW executive

Navistar sent out 500 layoff notices to its Chatham workforce last week, with another 200 expected in the spring. Chernecki said only 200 workers are left and the plant's survival is at stake.

"At the plant this morning, our guys were just dumbfounded; they're mad as hell," said Chernecki. "In the face of (layoffs) over the next few months, there is no legitimate credible reason" for Ottawa's decision.

"Doesn't the government know there's a manufacturing crisis in Canada?" he added.

Asked yesterday why the contract couldn't have stipulated the trucks be built in Canada, a spokesperson for Defence Minister Peter MacKay referred Torstar News Service to the Public Works ministry.

"Minister MacKay's role is to outline what equipment and platforms are needed by the Canadian Forces," the Defence ministry official said in an e-mail. "After identifying the need, Public Works follows a competitive procurement process."

But the Public Works Department referred the question to Industry Canada and — in the end — there appeared to be no answer.

Yesterday, CAW president Ken Lewenza sent a letter to MacKay, asking him to "provide the necessary leadership to invest in Canada by having these vehicles built in Canada."

But, from Warrenville, Ill., Navistar corporate spokesperson Ray Wiley said the trucks couldn't be built in Chatham, challenging Chernecki's assertion the line could accommodate the medium-duty trucks for the Armed Forces.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Calgary **Business meeting**

TODD KOROL/REUTERS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, centre, and Environment Minister Jim Prentice, second from left, meet with business leaders Murray Edwards, left, of Canadian Natural Resources, Nancy Southern, second from right, of Atco and Stephen Snyder of TransAlta yesterday.

EnCana offers $500,000 for bombing info

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada

B.C. One of the British Columbia's largest oil and gas companies yesterday promised up to $500,000 for information leading to an arrest and prosecution in the bombings of its natural gas facilities near Dawson Creek, B.C.

EnCana pipeline sites have been targeted four times since October, with the most recent attack last week at a metering shed near Tomslake.

Eligible

- Anyone found to have colluded in the bombings is not eligible for the reward.

Police have identified what they describe as "persons of interest" who have not been co-operative with investigators, but still have no suspects.

"Police know from … other major crime investigations that when the suspect is finally arrested, there will be a group of family, friends or co-workers who either knew or had (suspicions)," said RCMP Sgt. Tim Shields.

"We believe the same principle holds true in this case."

"We need the community's help to solve this crime," added Supt. Lloyde Plante, assistant criminal operations officer for National Security in B.C.

News in brief

ATTACK A humanitarian worker from Kamloops, B.C., is in a coma after he was beaten and robbed in Cambodia. According to the International Humanitarian Hope Society, Jiri Zvini, is in critical condition in Phnom Penh.

OLYMPICS Vancouver's debt rating has been put on watch by Standard and Poor's after the city's mayor said another injection of $458 million needs to be put into the floundering Olympic athletes village. In a statement issued yesterday, Standard and Poor's downgraded the city's credit rating from stable to credit watch, a term to indicate that the ratings agency is concerned about Vancouver's increased debt load.

ONTARIO An Ontario man charged with the 1970 abduction and killing of a 12-year-old girl had a new charge laid against him during a court appearance in Kirkland Lake, Ont., yesterday. Barry Vincent Manion is charged with the first-degree murder and abduction of Katherine May Wilson, who disappeared while walking home from a gas station in the northern Ontario town.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bush takes parting swipe at communist Cuba
U.S. President George W. Bush took a parting swipe at Cuba yesterday, saying it was a cruel dictatorship that had responded to appeals for democratic reform with more repression. REUTERS

World

Clinton faces questions over husband's charity

Former U.S. president Bill Clinton's charity should stop taking foreign donations to avoid any conflict of interest with his wife Hillary Clinton's work as secretary of state, a top Republican said yesterday.

Clinton was expected to be confirmed easily as the top U.S. diplomat, but Republican and Democratic lawmakers raised the issue of her husband's charitable fundraising as she testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana, the panel's top Republican and a centrist voice on U.S. foreign policy, said an agreement between president-elect Barack Obama's team and the William J. Clinton Foundation did not go far enough to prevent potential conflicts of interest.

Disclosure

- Under the deal brokered between Obama's team and former president Clinton, the foundation has disclosed past donors, which include the governments of Saudi Arabia and Norway, and has agreed to submit future donations to a State Department ethics review and disclose donations annually.

"The core of the problem is that foreign governments and entities may perceive the Clinton Foundation as a means to gain favour with the secretary of state," Lugar said.

"The only certain way to eliminate this risk going forward is for the Clinton Foundation to forswear new foreign contributions when Senator Clinton becomes secretary of state," Lugar added.

Clinton, who was accompanied by her daughter Chelsea but not her husband, listened to Lugar but did not address the matter during her confirmation hearing. REUTERS

Costa Rica **Earthquake aftermath**

JUAN CARLOS ULATE/REUTERS

Earthquake survivors listen to information disseminated by the National Commission of Emergencies at a field used as temporary refuge in Fraijanes, Costa Rica, yesterday. The final death toll in Costa Rica from a 6.1-magnitude earthquake last week will likely rise to around 40.

Israeli forces squeeze Gaza

CONFLICT Israel's top general said there was still "work ahead" in the 18-day offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip yesterday, and Israeli tanks and troops edged closer to the heart of the city of Gaza.

The Palestinian death toll reached 971, Gaza's Hamas-run Health Ministry said, counting some 400 women and children among those killed. Israel says 10 Israeli soldiers and three civilians hit by Hamas rockets have died.

The top UN aid official for Gaza appealed to the international community to protect Gaza's civilians, saying nowhere in the territory of 1.5 million people was safe any longer with the conflict becoming "a test of our humanity." REUTERS

Allegations

- Israel has denied Syrian allegations that it was responsible for traces of uranium found by experts at a Syrian site that Israel bombed in 2007, diplomats said.

News in brief

NAFTA Mexican President Felipe Calderon left the door open yesterday to discussion of possible changes in the North American Free Trade Agreement a day after talks with U.S. president-elect Barack Obama.

DISEASE U.S. syphilis rates rose for a seventh year in 2007, driven by gay and bisexual men, while chlamydia reached record numbers and gonorrhea remained at alarming levels -- especially among blacks, health officials said yesterday. REUTERS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Paul's Senate resumé

Columnist believes he was overlooked by PM Harper

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan
Journalist & Media Consultant

JIM YOUNT/REUTERS FILE PHOTO

Columnist Paul Sullivan is lobbying Prime Minister Stephen Harper for a seat in the Senate.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

I see you have started appointing journalists to the Senate and I think it's about time you put away those fussy old Reform party ideas about a so-called "Triple E" senate and take to padding it with the same cynical relish as your Tory predecessor Brian Mulroney, who, in 1990, appointed eight senators in a single day in order to get the GST rammed through.

I'm just sending this note to let you know that I'm making myself available. I know you've got another round of appointments scheduled in March and I don't want to miss out.

Obviously, you didn't know I was available when you made your most recent picks. If Mike Duffy gets to climb into a nice cosy Upper Chamber seat and doze off, why shouldn't I be next in line? I mean, my qualifications are a match for his. And unlike Mike, I wouldn't need the extra chair.

Look, I'm at least as old as he is. Some would say washed up, but that's cruel and unkind. I prefer to think that I'm seasoned and experienced, like Mike.

Like Mike, I have the ability to form instant opinions out of thin air and communicate them wisely and gravely. I can even do that little head move he has that simulates thoughtfulness. That's ideal in a senator, who can say or think whatever he or she likes knowing it will be ignored because no one ever listens to a senator.

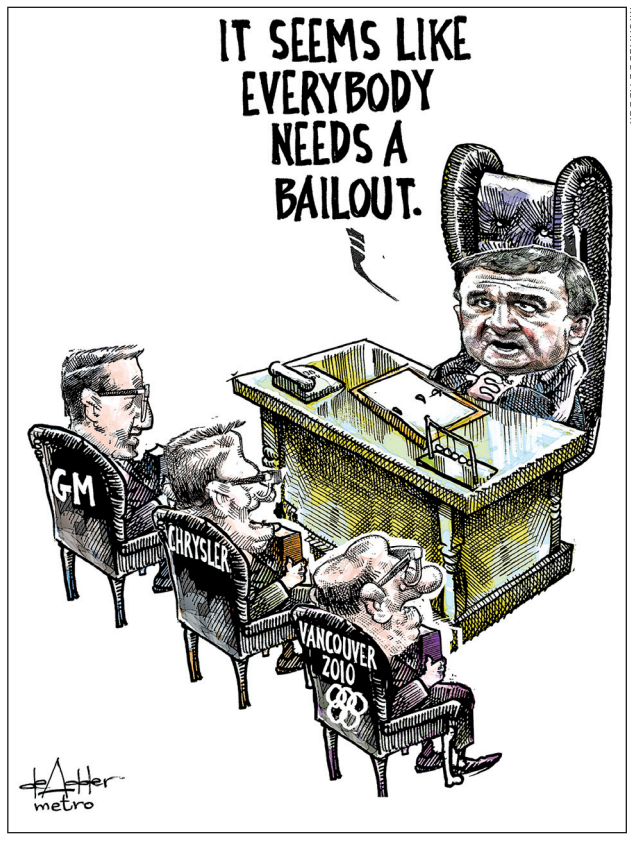
Like Mike, I have absolutely no actual experience in government or governing, so I have no idea how hard it is for MPs who actually have to get elected by the population at large rather than get appointed by a grateful prime minister. I also have no intention of finding out.

I also understand the Senate meets for 90 days a year and senators can miss 21 of those days before any penalties apply, which means I only have to turn up once every five days or so and still get the $130,000 per annum cash and perks. So I won't be hanging around getting in the way.

You can rest assured that I have never said or reported anything of any consequence that might embarrass you, so I am eminently qualified to cash in and I am more than willing to serve until 75, which, sadly, is only 17 years away. Time is of the essence! Don't worry about the collapse of the economy or the fact that your minority government is hanging by a frayed thread of national sufferance — the time is always right to hand out the pork to your real friends.

Yours in journalistic and parliamentary integrity,
Paul

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Letters

'Simple' solution to end problems in the Mideast

It is simple how the current problems in Gaza can be solved. Hamas can stop its deliberate targeting of Israeli civilians, which number more than 10,000 missiles in the past eight years and more than 500 in the so-called recent truce.

Israel will not have to finally respond and will stop targeting the Hamas terrorists that hide amongst the Arab civilians of Gaza. The UN can assist by not employing Hamas members on its staff and allowing use of UN resources. After that, having seized control of Gaza by violent means, Hamas should concentrate on creating the theocratic state that it claims it yearns for.

MICHAEL BAIGEL, TORONTO

Word on the street: Do you think polygamy should be illegal?

Ali Souliman
age 21, Ottawa

A: In our society, in Canada, I think it's not possible. I'm Muslim, I could have four wives, but I'm not going to because I'm westernized.

Marine Lucas
age 19, Ottawa

A: It's a strange situation. It's accepted in other countries, but I think it's a bit weird. We shouldn't allow five wives. It doesn't work with our country.

Matt Carruthers
age 19, Ottawa

A: I think it should be legal, but it all comes down to the individual. If you want to have one husband and he has many wives, that's up to her. It all has to be consensual, of course.

Magali Perrault
age 27, Ottawa

A: I think that our customs are against polygamy, so in Canada we should not have polygamy. But we have a lot of immigrants that are actually practising this. It's a cultural issue.

John Baillie
age 72, Toronto

A: Yes, it should be illegal. It's against society and everything. It's disgusting.

Odiana Knight
age 62, Toronto

A: I would say no. People are practising it anyway — that's why divorce rates are sky high. It might keep more families together in a harmonious way.

Carlo D'amico
age 37, Montreal

A: Yes, it should be illegal. I was raised in having just one partner in my life and I don't see how I'd be able to devote myself to multiple wives.

Tram Danh
age 19, Vancouver

A: I think it should be illegal. Why should men have more than one wife? It's unfair and a double standard.

Shadi Dadengi
age 24, Vancouver

A: I don't think the subject should be a matter of law — it should be a matter of ethics and morality.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: ottawaletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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S&P says risk rising for U.S. ratings
Standard & Poor's yesterday affirmed its AAA rating for 12 nations, including Canada and the United States, but said risks to the United States' top sovereign grade have increased since the financial crisis deepened in September. **REUTERS**

Business

DOLLAR 0.63¢ — C$ 81.65¢ US; US$ $1.2248

OIL $37.78 US 19¢

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Non-bank lenders get voice at talks

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is expanding his working group on credit to include other stakeholders, a move that gave non-bank lenders their first voice at the table.

An industry source said executives from banks, along with the Canadian Bankers Association, met with their counterparts from Desjardins, Canada's largest co-operative financial group, and Credit Union Central of Canada. It was unclear if the financial co-operatives would take up permanent seats or function as observers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nortel shares dive ahead of key date

INTEREST Shares of Nortel Networks fell more than 20 per cent yesterday, two days before it is due to make an interest payment of about $107 million US.

Nortel had about $2.3 billion in cash and cash equivalents at end of September, suggesting it would have no difficulty in making the debt payment.

REUTERS

Toyota defies gloom

Dealers sell more vehicles than ever before

Toyota dealers across the country are smiling despite the turmoil in the auto industry.

While dealers for some manufacturers are struggling because of a big sales slump and too many stores, Toyota retailers sold more autos than ever last year.

Toyota's 239 dealers across the country sold an average of 875 cars and trucks in 2008, far more than any other company, statistics from DesRosiers Automotive Consultants showed yesterday.

"The success of their product was a key part of reaching this level."
Dennis DesRosiers

It represented an 11 per cent increase for Toyota dealers from 2007 and a 68 per cent jump in average annual sales since 2000. The increase also marks the first time that an automaker has sold more than 800 vehicles per store in Canadian history.

"The success of their product was a key part of reaching this level," said DesRosiers president Dennis DesRosiers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Alitalia **Back in the air**

ALESSANDRO BIANCHI/REUTERS

A passenger checks in at an Alitalia desk at Fiumicino airport near Rome yesterday. Alitalia took to the skies as a revamped, privately owned carrier after nearly being grounded for good last year. Italian investors bought its best parts, leaving the rest to the Italian state.

Trade surplus hits 11-year low on oil

ECONOMY Canada's monthly trade surplus shrank to its lowest level in 11 years in November as oil prices plummeted and demand for Canadian commodities declined along with the U.S. economy.

The trade surplus fell to $1.28 billion, the smallest since October 1997, Statistics Canada said yesterday, signaling the economy may have contracted far more than expected in the fourth quarter. The trade news sent the Canadian dollar skidding to its weakest level this month.

REUTERS

Business in brief

AIG SALE Bank of Montreal will buy the Canadian life insurance business of American International Group Inc. for about $375 million, the companies said yesterday, the latest in a series of asset sales at distressed prices.

AUTO U.S. auto sales in 2009 should fall about 13 per cent and reach their lowest level in 27 years, pushing some automakers closer to the verge of collapse, industry analysts said.

MEAT Canada said it will shelve for now its World Trade Organization complaint about U.S. rules that require a country-of-origin label on meat sold in U.S. stores. **REUTERS**

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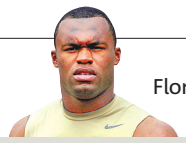
This Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program is funded by the Government of Ontario.



Rolle chooses Oxford over NFL

Florida State University defensive back Myron Rolle, left, will not enter this spring's NFL draft, opting instead to attend Oxford University in England for a year to study medical anthropology on a Rhodes Scholarship. Rolle plans to enter the 2010 draft. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

"I feel like crap ... I have a tough time dealing with it year after year."

Former big league pitcher Bert Blyleven, left, to ESPN Radio yesterday on being passed over for the Baseball Hall of Fame for the 12th straight year. Blyleven compiled a 287-250 record with a 3.31 ERA and 3,701 strikeouts in a 22-year career, mostly with the Twins.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Sens unleash on Canes

NHL RESULT

Hurricanes 1 Senators 5

VS

MIKE BEASLEY
for Metro Ottawa

THE SKINNY: The Senators shook free from a five-game losing skid as they knocked off the Carolina Hurricanes for their first win since a 3-2 victory over the Edmonton Oilers on Dec. 30.

FIRST W OF '09: Last night's victory against Carolina marks the team's first win in the New Year after losses to the New York Rangers, Boston Bruins, Buffalo Sabres, New Jersey Devils and Toronto Maple Leafs earlier this month.

THE HALFWAY MARK: Ottawa played game number 41 last night, signifying the midway mark of the regular season. The Senators have 34 points with a record of 14-21-6.

Ruutu returns

- Jarkko Ruutu returned to the Senators' lineup after serving a two-game suspension for biting Sabres forward Andrew Peters' gloved hand in a 4-2 loss in Buffalo last week.

NUMBER 500: Ottawa forward Mike Fisher suited up in his 500th NHL game last night, all with the Senators.

SLUMPBUSTER: Fisher celebrated his 500th big league game with his fourth goal of the season and first in 20 games.

BACK IN NET: Brian Elliott made his second straight start between the pipes for Ottawa since being called up from the AHL last weekend. Elliott made 23 saves for his second NHL victory.

THE NEXT GAME: The Senators are in Atlanta tonight for a contest against the Thrashers.

CHRISTOPHER PIKE/REUTERS

Dany Heatley and Chris Neil celebrate Antoine Vermette's goal in the second period last night.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

OTTAWA 5 Carolina 1
Nashville 2 Toronto 0
Boston 3 Montreal 1
Edmonton 5 Washington 2
Columbus 4 Colorado 3
N.Y. Rangers 2 N.Y. Islanders 1
Pittsburgh 4 Philadelphia 2
Phoenix at Minnesota
St. Louis at Calgary
New Jersey at Vancouver
Tampa Bay at San Jose

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Charlotte 80 Detroit 78
Miami at Minnesota
Cleveland at Memphis
L.A. Lakers at Houston
Dallas at Denver
Atlanta at Phoenix
Orlando at Sacramento

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NHL Staal, Pens beat Flyers

JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

Jordan Staal of the Penguins skates against the Flyers last night. Staal had a goal to help Pittsburgh to a 4-2 win.

Decisions for NHLPA

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

The NHL Players Association intends to divulge before month's end whether it will:

A) End its collective bargaining agreement with the NHL or extend it another two seasons;

B) Fire former superstar Eric Lindros as its ombudsman or retain him.

Hockey sources predicted in chats with Metro yesterday that the NHLPA will announce during festivities surrounding the All-Star Game in Montreal on Jan. 25 that its player representatives are choosing to extend the agreement.

The CBA that ended the 2004-05 NHL lockout gave the players the option to either terminate the existing agreement next September or extend it two more seasons.

The sources said players are not interested in a major labour battle during these troubling economic times, already have voted to extend the existing agreement and intend to enthusiastically announce their decision in Montreal.

At the same time, the sources said, the union might announce the firing of Lindros. They said his firing is possible because of a major division in the NHLPA over his contributions. Union executives won't publicly discuss Lindros but some say privately he's caused rifts and has improperly handled his job.

• During the NHL lockout, sports networks picked up poker to fill air time and, years later, poker ratings remain high. But is poker a sport? I'm beginning to think so, and I'll be profiling Canadian poker star Isabelle Mercier this week, but I'd like to know your thoughts. E-mail marty.york@metronews.ca to tell me if you consider poker a sport.

Incidentally, the most-searched word on the Internet in 2008? Poker.

• Mike Benevides stunned the Argonauts recently by rejecting their offer to become Toronto's head coach, but his decision may well be a blessing for his predecessor with the B.C. Lions.

Dave Ritchie, who left B.C. before last season and was replaced as the team's defensive co-ordinator by Benevides, has been contacted by the Argos and has emerged as one of the top two candidates for the job. The other is Bart Andrus, an assistant coach with the NFL's Tennessee Titans.

If Andrus is chosen, the Argos will try to recruit Ritchie as assistant head coach and defensive co-ordinator. Ritchie, 70, spent 25 years in Canada as a head and assistant coach and his knowledge of the league could help Andrus, who has no CFL experience.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Sports in brief

NHL Tampa Bay Lightning star Vincent Lecavalier has addressed rumours that he could be headed to his hometown of Montreal in a trade. "I grew up with the Canadiens," Lecavalier told Montreal's La Presse newspaper. "I understand there are a lot of rumours ... but they are rumours." Lightning GM Brian Lawton told the St. Petersburg Times Monday that Lecavalier is not being shopped.

MLB The Atlanta Braves have reportedly agreed to terms with right-hander Derek Lowe on a four-year contract. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution is reporting that the deal is worth $60 million.

Lowe

CFL Former Saskatchewan Roughrider Trevis Smith is applying for parole for the first time since he was sent to prison in 2007 for knowingly exposing women to the virus that causes AIDS.

HOCKEY A northern Ontario community is in mourning after a teenage hockey player died following an on-ice collision. Sixteen-year-old Kristopher Meshake died on the weekend.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Metro Drive

Honda Civic like hotcakes

Based on its all-time record annual sales of 72,463 units in 2008, Honda Civic became the first passenger car in 15 years to achieve status as the top-selling vehicle, including all cars and trucks, in Canada. The Civic also remained Canada's top-selling passenger car for an 11th consecutive year, outselling its nearest competitor by 14,727 units. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

New dance in Detroit

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

Veteran auto journalist

GETTY IMAGES PHOTO

Even breakthrough cars such as the Toyota Prius Plug-In Hybrid were greeted with muted enthusiasm at the Detroit auto show in Cobo Center, columnist Michael Goetz writes.

The Detroit auto show, also known by its more grandiose name — The North American International Auto Show — is in full swing right now. But it's an awkward swing, like a 12-year old boy with size 10 feet, dancing with his mother.

Big auto shows usually have great atmosphere. Hard not to, I guess, when you've got world debuts of exciting vehicular creations, and very theatrical news conferences and displays.

The whole point of these auto shows, it seems, is a chance for the auto players to one-up each other, show a little swagger, and give us that sizzle we so much like with our car steaks.

Put someone on a stage to be humble, however, and well, it's not great theatre. Unless of course, you were looking for tragedy or a train wreck.

But we didn't get that, either. The 2009 Detroit auto show was not nearly as exciting as past years, or as entertainingly bad as some had hoped.

Even when someone had something cool to show the world, like VW did with its brilliant, minimalist, mid-engine roadster concept, it was done in the wake of a sombre speech by its chairman, outlining the company's commitment to "the show, the city, and the U.S. auto industry."

As you know, many of his import colleagues didn't show up. Many others decided to go low key, with simple displays and no "unveil."

Ford is the sole Detroit-based automaker that isn't dipping into government bailout money — for now, at least. It seemed to revel in that position, with decidedly more whiz-bang in its unveilings, and more strut to its stride, than exhibited by either of its U.S. brethren.

One of its introductions, the 2010 Ford Mustang Shelby GT 500, also gave us gear heads one of the few occasions to holler — not only is it a great 540-hp boy toy, it exited the stage in Cobo Center via tire squeal.

Some in the crowd actually squealed back, in delight no doubt, for putting a small dent in the political correctness warp shield that seemed to be in force around the whole show.

Nobody whooped or hollered when Ford talked about its new Fusion hybrid, or, later, when Toyota announced that its new Prius would return a combined fuel efficiency rating of 50 mpg, or when the Chinese automaker BYD, took the wraps off the world's first production plug-in hybrid (on sale in China later this month).

But that's OK. This was not a show to stir the emotions; this was people trying to figure out a new dance.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

Hyundai Genesis a top creation

People have the wrong idea of luxury. Luxury isn't heated seats, a sunroof or leather.

It can't be defined by options lists, vehicle types nor engineering feats — nor with pedigree, prestige or presence.

Worse still, luxury becomes meaningless immediately when many people have access to it. Espresso in the morning used to be a luxury. Sushi used to be a luxury. So did cottages, condos, bottled water, cellphones and designer handbags. Once you can buy it at the local mall, it's ubiquitous.

Hyundai knows ubiquitous. From the Pony to the $9,995 Accent, for decades its electricity bills have been paid on the back of frugal and simple vehicles.

But all that changes with the Genesis, which the 2009 North American Car of the Year award at the Detroit auto to show this week. Apart from the conspicuous absence of a Hyundai badge, of course.

From some angles it looks like a Mercedes-Benz S-Class; other viewpoints bring out a little BMW 5-Series, Lexus GS, Infiniti M ... all of which are easily recognized as luxury vehicles, and admittedly the Genesis also looks like it could be parked out front at the Four Seasons.

The car's trump card is its drivetrain: Either a 3.8L V6 with 306 horsepower or a 4.6L V8 with 375 horses. Price ranges from $37,995 to $48,995, with the V8 starting at $43,995. CARGUIDE STAFF

carguidemagazine.com
For the latest road tests, vehicle evaluations and more, visit: carguidemagazine.com
carguide

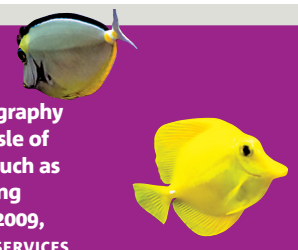
Telemark weekend

On the weekend of Jan. 24 and 25, telemark specialists and enthusiasts will gather at Le Massif in Charlevoix, Que., for the 13th annual event dedicated to the slide sport. There will be activities for everyone from beginners to experts; visit lemassif.com METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Underwater photo contest

From March 9 to 14, Photo Sub 2009, an international underwater photography competition, will take place at the International Scuba Diving Centre in Isle of Youth, Cuba. The sub-aquatic contest will grant 17 awards in categories such as fish (turtle, octopus, squid), undersea flora and fauna, colours, works using flash, and so on. For more information, visit cayolargodelsur.cu/fotosub2009, cubatur.cu and cubatravel.cu. METRO NEWS SERVICES



TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Navigating Obama's Chicago

The U.S. president-elect's hometown haunts are worth checking out

EMMA E. FORREST
Metro World News

Barack Obama sightings won't be quite so frequent in the president-elect's hometown of Chicago once he moves the wife and kids into the White House. But that doesn't mean you can't check out the Windy City in purely presidential style.

A view of the Chicago skyline. Visitors to the city can see where the Obama family lived, shopped, ate and socialized.

United States
Presidential
Inauguration

Where to stay:

Budget

Hyde Park Arms Hotel: If you want to crash in Obama's South Side 'hood — the lovely Kenmore-Hyde Park — the Hyde Park Arms is the way to do it on the cheap. It's a clean, safe hotel, providing just the basics. Rooms are leased weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. From $145 US/week; 5316 S. Harper Ave., 773-493-3500.

Mid-range

Hilton Chicago: The landmark downtown hotel is where Obama held his first press conference as the president-elect. The comfortable, classic hotel overlooks Grant Park, where he gave his election night victory speech. From $98/night; 720 S. Michigan Ave., 312-922-4400, hilton.com.

Deluxe

The Whitehall Hotel: The historic, surprisingly-large boutique hotel downtown is gorgeously appointed, restored meticulously to its original 1920s grandeur. It's also a favourite of Obama-supporting celebrities. From $147/night; 105 E. Delaware Pl., 866-753-4081, thewhitehallhotel.com.

What to see:

Kenwood-Hyde Park neighbourhood: Dominated by the beautiful campus of the University of Chicago (where Obama taught constitutional law), the president-elect's neighbourhood, Kenwood-Hyde Park, offers a fascinating collection of large homes from the late 19th century; the family resides in a large, red-brick home on Greenwood Avenue.

Learn about that Frank Lloyd Wright-designed building you're gawking at by taking a walking tour of the area, guided by members of the Chicago Architecture Foundation ($10, architecture.org). Afterwards, check out the Hyde Park Art Center, the oldest alternative exhibition space in the city; 5020 S. Cornell Ave., 773-324-5520, hydeparkart.org.

Sears Tower: Take in the whole of Obama's hometown from atop the 1,450-foot Sears Tower, the tallest building in North America. On a clear day, visitors on the viewing deck can see for 40 to 50 miles over neighbouring states Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin, or just marvel at Chicago's stunning architecture; 233 S. Wacker Dr., $12.95, 312-875-9696, theskydeck.com.

U.S. Cellular Field: It's almost essential that the American president is a fan of the great American pastime — baseball. Obama roots for the White Sox, who call the South Side's U.S. Cellular Field home; 333 W. 35th St., Tel 312-674-1000, chicago.whitesox.mlb.com.

Where to shop:

57th Street Books: This is where the president-elect liked to get literary. Now, of course, you can pick up an Obama-penned tome at this cosy, independent South Side bookseller; 1301 E. 57th St., 773-684-1300, semcoop.booksense.com.

Urbanest/Anderonville: Chicago is known for its fabulous design sense, and the eco-conscious Urbanest offers the best well-priced modern home furnishings in town. Any piece in their Soho Collection would look stunning in the White House, but if you're looking to furnish your house (and not spend thousands in shipping costs to get a piece back home), their accessories, including lamps and vases, are equally divine; 5228 N. Clark St., 773-271-1000, urbanestliving.com.

Where to eat:

Budget

MacArthur's: In his book The Audacity of Hope, Obama reminisces about the turkey legs and dressing at MacArthur's, a soul food (they prefer to call it "fine Southern cuisine") icon in the city; 5412 W. Madison St.,773-261-2316, macarthursrestaurant.com

Expensive

Topolobampo: Celebrity chef Rick Bayless serves up Sopa Azteca and other Mexican specialties to the soon-to-be first family at this 70-seat, downtown foodie hotspot; 445 N. Clark St., 312-661-1434, rickbayless.com, reservations recommended two weeks in advance.

Spiaggia: The site of Barack and Michelle Obama's so-called first date after winning the White House, Spiaggia is a world-class Italian establishment with views almost as impeccable as the service and cuisine; 980 N. Michigan Ave., 312-280-2750, visit online at spiaggiarestaurant.com.

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By the numbers
A North America-wide survey released by Travelocity found that people are reluctant to cut back on their vacations, despite the economy — 28 per cent of respondents said their vacations will be the final thing on which they will cut back. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

The downside of travel advisories

Warnings are necessary, but can they make you worry more than you need to?

TheTravelJunkie

Travel advisories aren't the most comforting reports to read right before you get on a plane. One such advisory, containing phrases such as "fatal bombings," "incidents of violence targeting crowds of civilians" and "random acts of terrorism," inspired second thoughts about my impending visit to war-torn Sri Lanka.

In this South Asian country, the 20-year-long conflict between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Sri Lanka Army has lead to over 60,000 deaths, damaged the economy, brought political instability and, unsurprisingly, caused a decline in tourist numbers. In 2007, close to 500,000 tourists visited Sri Lanka, 11.7 per cent fewer less than the previous year.

It's no wonder. A few days before I arrived, Tamil Tiger rebels fired at a civilian bus travelling along a freeway.

According to local newspapers, the random attack killed three passengers and injured 16.

With news like that, even I — the girl who has backpacked through parts of the DR Congo, Rwanda and the Palestinian Territories — was feeling spooked.

After a week of exploring, touring from the capital city to the countryside, I discovered a reality beyond the travel advisories — a warm and wonderful country with stunning landscapes, rich cultural festivals and friendly people.

I learned how Ceylon tea is processed, how sapphires are harvested and how to say hello in both Sinhala and Tamil. I checked out a community development project, played cricket with school children and planted my very own mango tree.

Sri Lanka quickly become one of my all-time favourite destinations. Sights, sounds, smell and colour abound; in fact, everyone and everything in this country seems like a potential subject for a National Geographic photograph.

As much as I wish more people could see this beautiful country, there's something selfishly intoxicating about visiting "uncharted territories" off the tourist grid.

I loved being one of the only tourists around, but for the Sri Lankan people, it's another matter.

"If the tourists aren't hiring tour guides, I can't make money to support my family," said HP, a 65 year-old who takes tourists around the Independence Memorial Hall in Colombo. A man with white hair and sparkling blue eyes, he explained that prices have gone up in recent years and living is hard.

Like many others I spoke to — from jewelery store owners to vendors hawking elephant-themed trinkets — HP said that if the downturn continues, he may have to leave the country altogether to look for alternative employment.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing Sundays at 8 p.m. EST on OLN; juliadimon.com.

JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

The Gangarama Temple overlooking Beira Lake used to receive plenty of visits from tourists.

Sri Lanka

- Sri Lanka can seem scary when you read the travel advisories. Government documents ask tourists to avoid several areas in the northeastern parts of the country, including Kilinochchi, Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Ampara Districts, the Jaffna Peninsula, Mannar and Vavuniya.
- In the region I visited — Kataragama, in the south — I felt completely safe, although I did have one brief moment of uncertainty while walking through an overcrowded market at a religious festival. Instead of worrying, I temporarily adopted a fatalistic approach and bought myself some curry. **JULIA DIMON/ FOR METRO CANADA**

Word Travels

- Catch the second season of Word Travels, a documentary series that follows the real-life adventures of travel writers Julia Dimon and Robin Esrock. It airs Sundays at 8 p.m. EST on OLN.

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Barcelona $595* — Travel May 8 - May 16/ts + taxes & fees $304
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Sun Holidays
PUNTA CANA 4-STAR $667
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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom. Departs Jan 19/sqv/5g.
Cayo Coco 4-Star $606
Blau Colonial + taxes & fees $229
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom. Departs Jan 17/acv/ac.
Mayan Riviera 4-Star $767
Riu Lupita + taxes & fees $262
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom. Departs Jan 29/sqv/5g.
Jamaica Luxury $1479
Sandals Grande Ocho Rios + taxes & fees $266
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights Luxury Included® accom. Departs Jan 23/inf/wg.

Cruise Holidays
Western Caribbean $469+
Carnival Liberty + taxes & fees $60
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Road tripping

A Travelocity poll found 51 per cent of people will consider using more cost-effective transportation, such as driving, in 2009; however Canadians are less likely to reduce their flying than Americans. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Nepal: From war zone to tourist destination

Less than three years after a long and bloody civil war ended, tourists are returning to Nepal and its spectacular mountain scenery in record numbers.

The government, led by former Maoist rebels who waged an insurgency against the monarchy for 10 years, has set an ambitious target of doubling visitor numbers to the Himalayan nation by 2011, a top tourism official said.

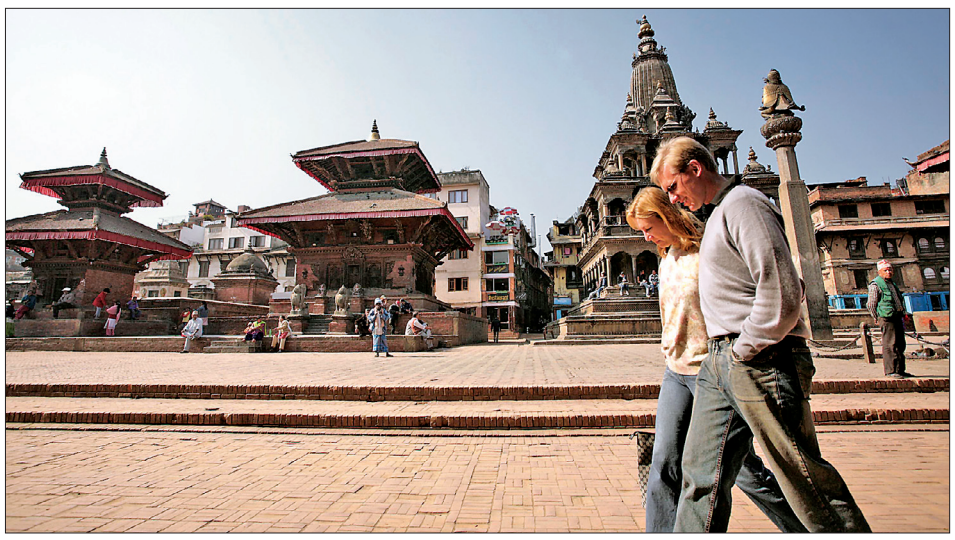
The Maoists signed a peace deal in 2006 and won a landmark election in April last year, after the end of a civil war that killed an estimated 13,000 people.

Tourism is a key source of income for Nepal, one of the world's poorest countries. It brought in $230.6 million US in 2007 and accounted for four per cent of GDP.

Tourist arrivals grew fourper cent last year from 526,000 in 2007, the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) said. The government has designated 2011 as Nepal Tourism Year and hopes to receive one million visitors on the back of the peace deal, said NTB chief Prachanda Man Shrestha.

"It is challenging but achievable," he said. "Tourism is not a choice but compulsion for the economic development of Nepal."

Shrestha said Nepal has an advantage over neighbours India and China because it can attract more tourists without extra investment, as those who come do so for the country's natural sights.



SHRUTI SHRESTHA/REUTERS

Tourists walk past an area in Durbar Square at Patan, in Kathmandu, Nepal.

There is also a perception the cash from tourism is mainly fattening the wallets of foreign travel operators in Kathmandu.

Though the government has promised 30 per cent of income from climbers and trekkers will go to development, "the money has not been disbursed yet because the procedures of doing this are unclear," said Tourism Ministry official Ramesh K.C. Some local sherpas in the Khumbhu region, home to Mount Everest, are already threatening to protest.

Analysts said the bulk of the money goes to foreign tour operators because Nepal has an ailing national carrier and mostly depends on foreign airlines. Many hotels import consumer goods as the country suffers food shortages.

And the 2011 target may be too optimistic. Though Nepal's healthier tourism numbers buck the global trend of a slowdown, the financial recession — which hasn't yet hit Nepal — will soon limit tourism growth and force tour operators to cut prices by 15 to 20 per cent.

Frequent travellers say some popular destinations in the remote Himalayas are already overcrowded, and that rafting and kayaking are polluting rivers.

Peter Patterson, a U.S. guide, said the construction of a road in scenic Mustang, in central Nepal, was destroying the rugged environment which attracts tourists in the first place.

"It may be good for the local people but it is not good for tourists," he said. "The place changes and the attraction for trekking disappears." **REUTERS**

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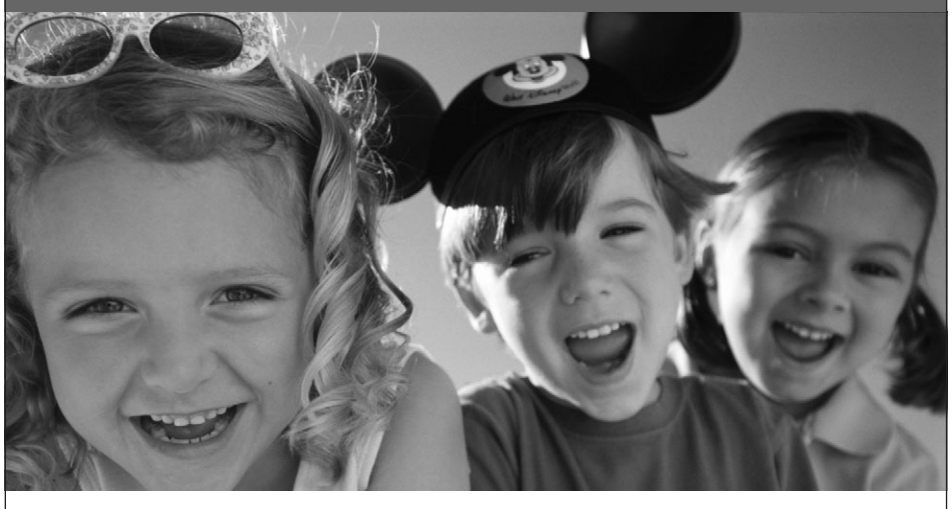

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metro Do it daily.

Howie hospitalized
Howie Mandel was hospitalized in Toronto on Monday with an irregular heartbeat, his publicist said. The 53-year-old comedian was in Canada taping his new show Howie Do It. He was released yesterday. **MSN.COM**

Entertainment

CSI guest star
Singer Taylor Swift will guest star in an upcoming episode of CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Taylor will play Haley Jones, a teen whose family runs a seedy Vegas motel. MSN.COM

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Every dog has its day

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Thor Freudenthal might possibly be the most ironic person to direct the new family comedy Hotel for Dogs.

"I'm personally kind of a cat person but I found that putting a camera on a cat makes the cat look bored," said the director while promoting the film recently in L.A. "Dogs are always participating in something, they're so expressive and I think that's why they're great for the screen."

There's no disputing that argument. From Marley & Me to last year's Beverly Hills Chihuahua, canines have never had such a presence in family-based entertainment. For Freudenthal, the reason became clear while making Hotel for Dogs, which opens in theatres this Friday.

"There's this bond unlike any other bond between a dog and a human being," said Freudenthal. "There's that innocent quality to them that has no agenda but to please us or give love in a way."

"It's a common interest too," added star Emma Roberts. "Even if two people are completely opposite, you can bond over (dogs). It's a common interest that's a simple bond."

In the film, Roberts plays a foster child who, along with her brother (Jake T. Austin), discovers an abandoned hotel and transform it into a majestic home for all the homeless mutts they can manage. But that doesn't mean things were especially friendly on-set. With over 60 dogs running around, each with their own individual trainer, making Hotel for Dogs would be considered anything but domestic bliss.

"We did have a couple of instances where we had a lot of them in one room and there was either a little fight breaking out or somebody got a little too hungry," laughed Freudenthal.

Head trainer Mark Forbes would attest to the manic filming conditions. Having also worked on Marley & Me, he insists the greatest attribute for making dog movies is patience. "It just takes time and the crew, they're used to (doing) three or four takes. With these guys, sometimes it takes 10, 15, 20 takes to get it right — so just everybody being so patient is what got both of these films made so well."

Bollywood goes global

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

Even though it has remained the world's most prolific filmmaking machine for more than 50 years, the wild world of the Bollywood movie is generally unknown to most mainstream North American viewers.

Chandni Chowk to China aims to change all that. The epic, big budget kung-fu comedy — it opens Friday — marks the first time major U.S. studio Warner Bros. has co-produced a completely Hindi-language picture (other studios Fox, Sony and Disney have similarly begun investing in Bollywood ventures) and expectations are high.

"This is a very big deal for Bollywood films because it exposes us on a global level," says Bollywood superstar and Chandni Chowk to China lead actor, Akshay Kumar.

SHEENA SIPPY PHOTO

Akshay Kumar expresses himself in Chandni Chowk to China.

American and British cinema has incorporated elements and trappings of the Bollywood style for years (Danny Boyle's Slumdog Millionaire stands as a recent commercially and critically successful example) but Chandni Chowk to China is the real deal.

In it, Kumar stars as hapless Delhi veggie slicer Sidhu who, mistaken for the reincarnation of a legendary warrior, is whisked away to China to do battle with an evil crime boss named Hojo — played by Kung Fu movie icon Gordon Liu.

Not only is CC2C the biggest internationally exposed Indian film in history — with over 140 prints in North America alone — but its production also marks the first time any movie from any country has been allowed to film on the ancient Great Wall of China.

"Not only did we shoot on the wall," says Kumar, "but we were, kicking, jumping and throwing people around with cables and cranes. It was incredible and a great privilege."

In true Bollywood fashion, Chandni Chowk to China runs almost three hours long and is packed to the bursting point with slapstick comedy, maudlin drama, jaw dropping action, heart throbbing romance.

"In a Hollywood movie, emotions are shown subtly but in a Bollywood movie, when somebody feels love, we go on to a bridge and dance and yell 'I love her and she loves me so lets have a song.' We're loud that way."

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Kenya Hunt
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OT	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Galapagos (Part 2 of 3)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		The Human Camera (N)		Secret Life of the Brain		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	The Guard "Body Parts"		The Unit "Sudden Flight"		House		News (N)
	-	-	5	SRC	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Le Match des étoiles (N) (SC)		Les Invincibles (N) (SC)		Le Téléjournal et Les Nou		La Zone
	209	342	6	CHRO	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Lost (HDTV) Confrontation between the survivors and the freighter people begins.						News (N)
	196	311	7	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	American Idol (HDTV) (N)				CSI: NY "Help" (N)		News (N)
	208	303	8	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Hockeyville 2009 (N)		CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	-	360	9	NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	117	713	10	TVA	Poule-oeufs or	Sketch Show	Destinées (HDTV) (N) (SC)		Deux filles le matin (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	-	-	11	QS	450 chemin	Rire et délire	Wipeout (SC)		Bob Gratton	Bob Gratton	Cent dix pour cent (SC)		Msr Showbiz
	137	763	12	TFO	Panorama		L'Inquisition révélée		*L'Échine du diable* ★★★ (2001, Suspense) Marisa Paredes.				Évolution
	-	362	13	CBS	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY "Help" (N)		Two/Half Men
	216	395	14	OMN2	Cold Case		News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		13: Fear Is Real (N)		Hates Chris	Friends	I Love Money		News (N)
	115	343	16	CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	218	345	18	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		True Hollywood Story				News (N)
	-	361	20	ABC	News (N)	Entertainment	Lost (HDTV) Confrontation between the survivors and the freighter people begins.						News (N)
	512	396	24	CPAC	La Période de questions		Heure polit.	L'Heure politique				Revue	Période-quest.
	651	355	25	CTS	Happy Days	Laverne	Michael Coren Show		100 Huntley Street		Life Today	This Is Day	John Hagee
	-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	American Idol (HDTV) (N)				News (N)		News
	-	-	64	PBS	Business Rpt.	Drum TV	Make 'em Laugh: The Funny Business of America (N)				Rick Steves' Iran (DVS)		Tavis Smiley
	205	312	104	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	American Idol (HDTV) (N)				CSI: NY "Help" (N)		News (N)
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour Dave Salmoni.		CBC News: The National		Lost at Sea (N)		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
sports	406	417	27	net	CHL Hockey 2009 Home Hardware CHL/NHL Top Prospects Game. From Oshawa, Ont. (Live)						Sportsnet Connected (HDTV)		Hockey Central
	126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	NHL Hockey Ottawa Senators at Atlanta Thrashers. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	410	403	52	SCR	College Basketball Duke at Georgia Tech. (Live)				NBA Basketball Los Angeles Lakers at San Antonio Spurs. (Live)				
	411	457	56	OLN	Bounty Hunter	Dakar Rally	Survivorman		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Dakar Rally	Survivorman
	417	406	59	SC	Barrett-Jackson Automobile Auction (HDTV) Wednesday action from Scottsdale, Ariz. (Live)								
family	554	544	48	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6teen	6teen	Misadventures	Futurama	The Critic	Robot Chicken	Bromwell High
	557	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	551	542	65	YTV	Scorpion	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
variety	570	580	29	MM	mmmtop	MusicProfile	Where You At	Revival	Back In	Back In	All-Time Top 10		Fabulous Life
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars
	628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		UFC Unleashed (N)		UFC Primetime	UFC Primetime	Unleashed
	521	560	34	TLC	Mystery Diagnosis		Extreme Forensics		Solved (HDTV)		Personal Justice (N)		Ext. Forensics
	145	761	35	TV5	Humanima	Mixeur	*Fragile(s)* (2007, Drame) Jean-Pierre Darroussin, Marie Gillain.				Peur	Voyageur	Journal TV5
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		About a Girl	About a Girl	The Guard (HDTV)		Big Love (HDTV)		House
	620	523	40	BVO	The Achievers	Landscape	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Videos	Wingfield	Wingfield	Stones and the Ocean		Law & Order
	520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)		Dirty Jobs		Deadliest Catch		Mayday		Daily Planet
	575	583	43	CMT	CMT's Greatest		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Totally
	601	562	45	SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	X-Weighted "Jamila"		Real Housewives of OC		Filthy Rich: Cattle Drive		ET Canada
	625	548	46	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Inc.	RENO 911!	Daily Show
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*A Simple Plan* ★★ (1998, Suspense) Bill Paxton, Billy Bob Thornton.					Seinfeld	Family Guy
	600	564	49	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Mansions	Property Shop	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Hid Potential	Really Big Flip	Holmes-Homes
	627	528	50	SPC	Lost		Lost "Ji Yeon"		The Dresden Files		Rabbit Fall	Rabbit Fall	Stargate SG-1
	581	566	53	MTV	Mom & Dad	After	MTV News	Cribs	The Real World		The Real World		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Reality	Ad Persuasion	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
	522	506	55	HIS	NCIS		Cities of the Underworld		The Real Da Vinci Code		NCIS		Unlocking-Past
	129	773	60	CD	Biographies "Chuck Norris"		Enfants médiums		S O S (HDTV)		Crimes passionnels		Vidéo
	261	394	61	V	Murder, She Wrote		Summer Wine	Dinnerladies	Darling Buds of May		The Nature of Things Intuition.		Poltergeist
	602	567	62	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	How Clean	Too Posh	Maxed Out (N)	Maxed Out	Maxed Out
	269	350	70	APTN	Canadian Geographic		Extreme Beats		APTN National News: Contact		Miywayawin	Guides	Wings-Canada
	621	527	71	TLK	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	Blush: Make-Up Artist		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	603	561	95	FN	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		Top Chef Farm dinner.		Restaurant

critics'corner

Anna and Kristina's Grocery Bag
Authentic, schmauthentic. Foreign cuisine evolves when it crosses oceans and borders; chop suey, for example, is a North American invention unheard of in China. Nevertheless, some foodies are into staying as true to the cuisine's roots as possible. To that end, this new episode finds Anna and Kristina on their way to Tuscany to find out whether the Italian cookbook they're reviewing is full of truly Italian recipes. 8 PM on 62 W

Hockeyville 2009
This series is a pageant of sorts, with communities as the contestants. Cities and towns from around Canada put their hometown pride and their love of hockey on display in hopes of being chosen the most worthy of the name Hockeyville. The winner gets a makeover for its local arena and plays host to an NHL exhibition game. In the premiere, the hosts are introduced, the top 20 contenders are chosen, and celebrities share their hockey memories. 8 PM on 8 CBC

Wilson has baby name picked out

Carnie Wilson can get the personalized pillow ready — she's already picked her new baby's name, five months ahead of the impending delivery. "It's Luciana — but we'll call her Lucy," the singer tells The Bonnie Hunt Show. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Rourke may have taken steroids, website alleges

CAREER Femalefirst.co.uk is alleging that Mickey Rourke may have taken steroids for his role in The Wrestler, quoting a magazine article as proof.

The website alleges the actor has revealed he piled on the pounds for his role as Randy (The Ram) Robinson in the acclaimed movie — which earned him a Golden Globe award on Sunday — by eating up to seven meals a day and training hard with an Israeli cage fighter.

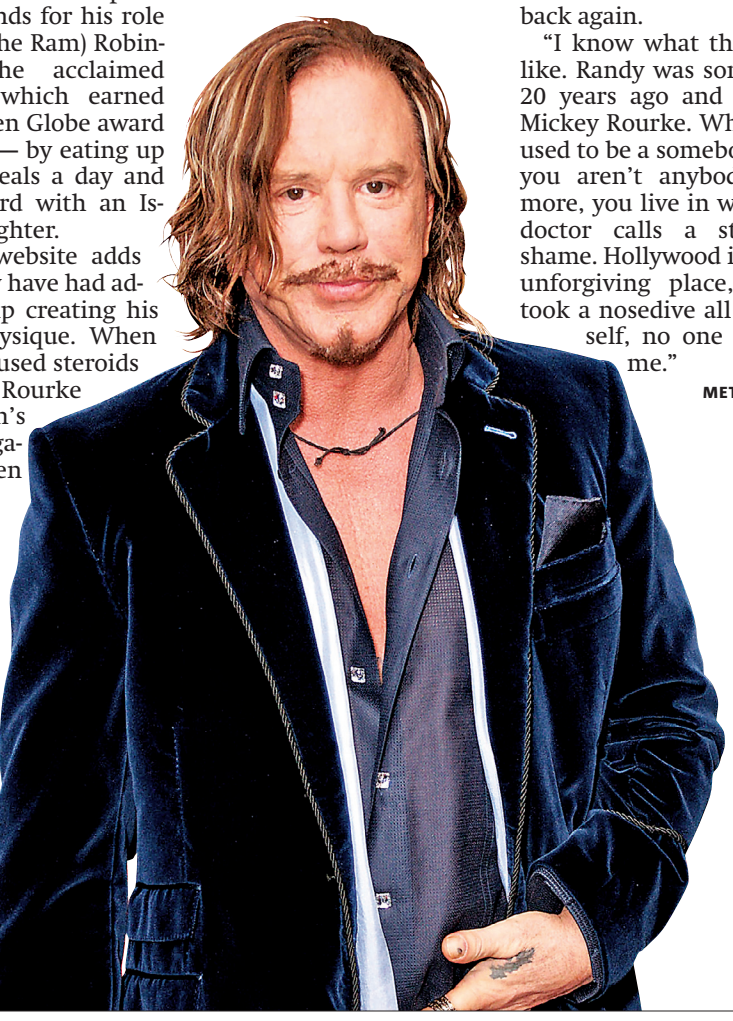
But the website adds Rourke may have had additional help creating his hulking physique. When asked if he used steroids to bulk up, Rourke told Men's Journal magazine: "When I'm a wrestler, I behave like a wrestler," the website alleges as proof.

The twice-divorced actor recently admitted he could empathize with his character's struggles because of his own turbulent life.

Rourke — who spent 15 years in the Hollywood wilderness — said: "Randy has been in the twilight of his career for several years. He thinks he has one more game in him — one more shot. He wants to come back again.

"I know what that feels like. Randy was somebody 20 years ago and so was Mickey Rourke. When you used to be a somebody and you aren't anybody anymore, you live in what my doctor calls a state of shame. Hollywood is a very unforgiving place, but I took a nosedive all by myself, no one pushed me."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Gisele, Brady engaged?

RELATIONSHIP Gisele Bundchen and Tom Brady are engaged, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Brazilian model and American football star are set to wed after Brady got down on one knee and proposed with a diamond solitaire ring in Los Angeles on Friday, the website says.

Gisele's agent has refused to confirm the happy news, saying: "We don't comment on our clients' private lives."

The website quotes a source as saying: "He asked and she accepted. The couple are discussing a huge fashionista event in the spring or a more intimate and quicker ceremony in Costa Rica, where Gisele has a home."

Gisele — who has previously dated Revolutionary Road actor Leonardo DiCaprio and professional surfer Kelly Slater — allegedly began her relationship with Tom when he was still romantically involved with actress Bridget Moynahan.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Perry laments her heartache

PEOPLE Katy Perry let all her emotions hang out during an acoustic set at L.A.'s Hotel Cafe on Monday night, people.com reports.

"It hurts right now," People quotes the singer as saying about her recent split with boyfriend Travis McCoy.

"When you breakup with someone you move on," she said. "You don't really want to move on ... but you have to because they don't give you any choice," she added before declaring, "But I'm over it!"

Despite battling a bad case of the flu, Perry promised the crowd that she'd be healthy again for her tour starting Jan. 23, adds people.com. The website adds she constantly looked to her friends, who were sitting just below the stage, for support, she kept a smile on her face and cracked jokes between songs.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Renée too busy for men

PEOPLE Renée Zellweger is too busy to have a boyfriend, femalefirst.com is reporting.

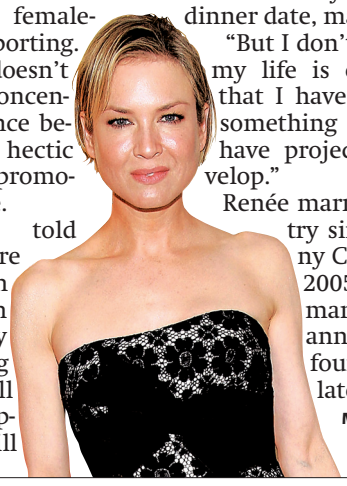
The actress doesn't have time to concentrate on romance because of her hectic acting and promotional schedule.

Renée, 39, told Marie Claire magazine: "I'm not single, I'm busy. That's my line. The thing is, I'm away all the time. I suppose if I sat still long enough to get to know somebody beyond a dinner date, maybe.

"But I don't feel like my life is empty or that I have to make something happen. I have projects to develop."

Renée married country singer Kenny Chesney in 2005, but the marriage was annulled four months later.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

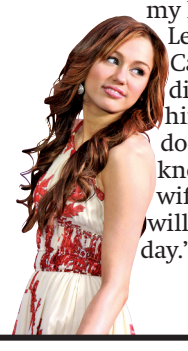


Cyrus wants to wed DiCaprio

PEOPLE Though she may be famously dating underwear model Justin Gaston — and is only 16 — teen superstar Miley Cyrus has her sights set on a new man.

According to Britain's Daily Star, while talking about going to the Golden Globes, Cyrus said, "I saw my husband, Leonardo DiCaprio. I didn't meet him. He doesn't know I'm his wife, but I will be one day."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Divorce gets ugly for Rutherford

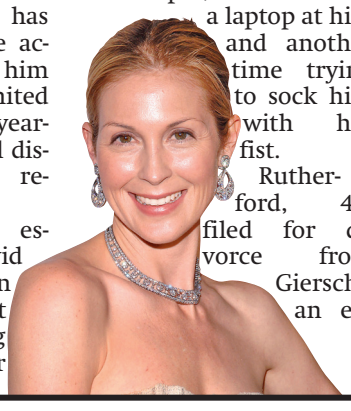
DISPUTE The divorce action between Gossip Girl star Kelly Rutherford and her estranged husband has turned ugly, with the actress seeking to bar him from leaving the United States with their two-year-old son for fear they'll disappear, people.com reports.

The website says estranged husband David Giersch countered in L.A. Superior Court with papers alleging the actress, who's four months pregnant with their second child, has a bad temper, once throwing a laptop at him and another time trying to sock him with her fist.

Rutherford, 40, filed for divorce from Giersch, an entrepreneur, last month after being married a little over two years, seeking sole physical custody with monitored visitation. On the same day, Giersch filed for legal separation, seeking sole legal and physical custody with visitation for her.

In emergency papers filed Friday, Rutherford sought to bar Giersch, 34, from travelling outside the United States with their son Hermès.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Time to focus on family?

FAMILY With her Broadway run of All My Sons over, it's time for Katie Holmes to get back to enlarging her family — at least according to husband Tom Cruise.

Now magazine claims that Cruise has ordered Holmes to put on weight and get pregnant. "Tom believes Katie needs to focus on their family again," a source tells the British magazine.

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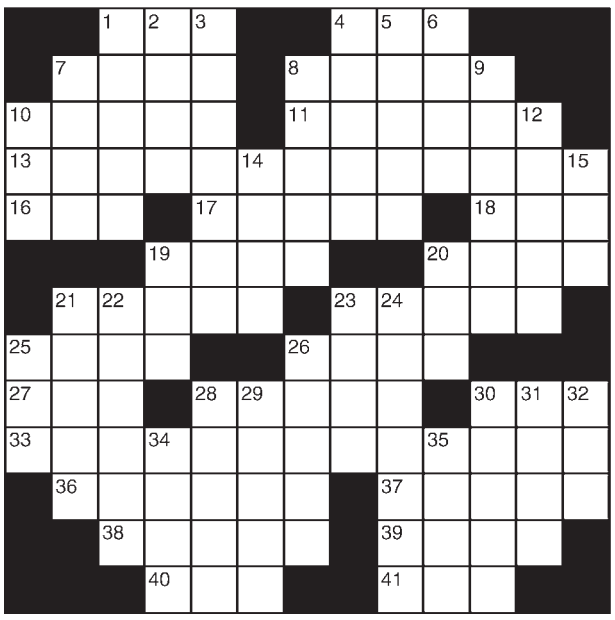

Crossword across

1 Ventilate
4 Be a couch potato
7 Peru's capital
8 Partook at a banquet
10 Man of morals?
11 Invest officially
13 Not mincing words
16 — out a living
17 Find
18 Water barrier
19 Cohort
20 Actress Sorvino
21 Diarist Samuel
23 Some silverware
25 Go limp
26 Strictly entre —
27 Blackbird
28 Off the perpendicular
30 Upper limit
33 Childhood game played in a circle
36 Buccaneer
37 Not as plentiful
38 Eldrick Woods
39 Sicilian spouter
40 Witness
41 Kid's query

Crossword down

1 Supermarket section
2 "No harm done"
3 Apace
4 Esthetic taste
5 Finish
6 Paraphernalia
7 Plumbing problem
8 Pooch
9 Small antelope
10 Noshed
12 Approaches
14 Rock guitarist Lofgren
15 Singer Sumac
19 Likely
20 "— Doubtfire"
21 Centerfold, maybe
22 Draw forth
23 Traditional music style
24 Got too big for
25 Bankroll
26 More pleasant
28 Old saw
29 Private student
30 Hackneyed
31 Cruising
32 Apiece
34 Singer-actor Kristofferson
35 Swearword

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	1		9			8	3	
8				4		6		7
9				6				
	4	2			5		6	
				2				
	7		3			2	5	
				3				8
7		9		1				3
	5	3			8		2	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

A	B	E	T	■	S	P	Y	■	T	O	S	S		
M	E	M	O	■	I	L	O	■	A	O	N	E		
M	A	I	D	■	S	O	U	T	H	P	A	W		
O	U	T	D	R	A	W	■	W	I	S	P	S		
■	■	■	L	O	L	■	F	I	T	■	■	■		
A	B	B	E	Y	■	S	A	G	I	N	A	W		
B	A	R	■	■	B	O	X	■	■	E	W	E		
C	H	O	C	T	A	W	■	P	H	O	N	E		
■	■	■	H	O	G	■	G	A	Y	■	■	■		
A	R	G	O	N	■	H	A	N	D	S	A	W		
M	O	O	S	E	J	A	W	■	R	A	J	A		
E	D	G	E	■	E	L	K	■	A	F	A	R		
N	E	O	N	■	T	O	Y	■	S	E	X	Y		

1	6	5	3	8	4	9	2	7
8	3	2	7	9	6	4	5	1
4	7	9	5	2	1	6	3	8
5	9	8	1	7	2	3	4	6
3	4	7	6	5	9	1	8	2
6	2	1	4	3	8	5	7	9
7	8	6	9	4	3	2	1	5
2	1	3	8	6	5	7	9	4
9	5	4	2	1	7	8	6	3

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Salmon pizza with yogurt and dill

INGREDIENTS:
2 small skinless salmon fillets, about 3/4 lb (375 g) in total
2 large tomatoes
1 small mild white or red onion
2 thin 10-in. (25-cm) unbaked pizza crusts
Salt and black pepper
8 sprigs of fresh dill
6 oz (170 g) Greek yogurt
To serve: 4 tbsp (60 ml) mango chutney, optional

METHOD:
1. Preheat oven to 425°F (220°C). Remove bones from salmon fillets, then dice flesh.

2. Rinse, dry and finely chop tomatoes; peel and finely chop onion. Place pizza crusts on baking trays; spread tomatoes and onion over each. Arrange salmon on top and add salt and pepper to taste.

3. Bake for 15–20 minutes, or until lightly browned, swapping trays around half way through.

4. Rinse and dry dill. Set aside a few sprigs for a garnish, finely chop remainder, and mix into yogourt, with some pepper.

5. Remove pizzas from oven, spoon some yogourt over each and garnish with reserved dill.

6. Cut each salmon pizza into quarters and serve two portions per person, accompanied by mango chutney, if using.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You'll increase your confidence level. You'll smile through an ecstatic meeting. A playmate appeals to you for understanding.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Move to a calmer and healthier place. Your ability to listen is enhanced. Don't get caught looking for a brilliant romance.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Someone's modest secrets are about to be revealed. Scandal-talk will cause a dispute. Fearlessly adapting to new conditions takes time.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A cheeky cheerleader gets a payback. Displeasure forces a decision to be made. Unfaithfulness causes difficulties in a love life.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
A door opens to a blast from the past. A passionate message is too tiring to deal with. Make an effort to avoid painful ailments.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Your favourite visitor is arranging a flight. A new supporter bites off more than he can chew. Someone gives you the upper hand in a deal.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A friend's clowning around should be encouraged. A seedy guy needs a helping hand. Lively people will have you pleading for rest.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A rewarding message arrives in the afternoon. Honesty is the key in a compromise. A liar wins a game by telling the truth.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A lucky break cheers you up. Better info comes from an endearing woman. Someone will pester you with a cunning plan.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A protector has told a lie. A trail of evidence leads to a revelation. An ethical person will give you peace of mind.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Someone will take the flack for you. A friend is on the verge of asking for help. Somebody will show you the way to make progress.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You can start to set realistic goals. A humble person is a good organizer. Be kinder to an absentminded individual.

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GL Sport model shown

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Limited model shown

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2009 SANTA FE 2.7L GL

Limited model shown

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